Supply of copies of Budget, etc., to the Members and the Press.

*Mushir-ul-Mulk J. MAHOMED IMAM (Chitaldrug cum Tumkur-Muslim).—Mr. Speaker, before taking up the next item of business on the agenda, I would like to make a representation to the Chair. To-day is a very important day, being the day for the presentation of the Budget and it is a very important work. I do not know what the new procedure is. Till now, neither the Financial Memorandum nor the Budget is supplied to us and we are handicapped. I do not know when the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will lay them on the table. More than ourselves, I think, the public are very anxious to know the Budget, and they want to know the details as early as possible. The only source through which they can get the particulars is to-day's or to-morrow's newspapers. I understand that copies of the Budget and the Memorandum are not made available to the Press in time.....

Mr. SPEAKER (Sri V. Venkatappa).—Before the Speech of the Finance Minister, Budgets are not published.

Janab J. MAHOMED IMAM.—It was also learnt that they were made available to the foreign papers whereas the local press correspondents were denied the privilege. I am not concerned about foreign Press; I am concerned only with the Press of my place. The Budget, I submit, ought to have been made available to the Press as early as possible to enable them to publish the details in to-day's papers. I am not finding fault with any one. The Budget speech and other things may be given to them in time so that they may appear as far as possible in the local press, much earlier than in other foreign newspapers.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಚಿವರು ಬಡ್ಜೆಟ್ಟನ್ನು ಮಂಡಿಸಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದಿಡದ ಹೊರತು, ಅಥವಾ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಬಡ್ಜೆಟ್ ಪ್ರತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾರಿಗೂ ಹಂಚುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಅದನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚರಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

Janab J. MAHOMED IMAM.—But I am told that copies have been given to the foreign papers.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಆ ವಿಚಾರ ನನಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK (Chitaldrug District—General).—Is it a fact that Budget copies are given to some newspapers before the Members got it?

Mr. SPEAKER.—I do not know.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Will the Hon'ble Speaker please enquire and let us know? I am reliably informed that a particular paper has been supplied with a copy and other papers have been denied and no Member has been suppled with a copy so far.

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY (Mandya District—General).—Who has given it?

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—The Finance Minister, I am told.

*Sri H. C. DASAPPA (Minister for Finance and Industries).—Now, that my Hon'ble friend the Leader of the Opposition, has raised certain point, it is best that they are answered.

As regards the first, the Hon'ble Speaker has already told him that copies of the Budget can only be made available after the Budget has been introduced by the Finance Minister. So, I think, I do not need to dwell on that. I thought the Hon'ble Member opposite knew this new procedure very well.

Janab J. MAHOMED IMAM.—This is the first time; how can we know?

Sri H. C. DASAPPA.—Anyway, now that he has known, I think that objection does not stand.

The second thing is with regard to making available the copies of my speech. I think, I owe a statement to this House with regard to this. I was definitely given to understand that the copies of the speech, just a few hours before it is made, can be circulated among the Press with an embargo that they shall not be opened prior to the time of speech. They have got to note that practice, and when a number of Press friends saw me on this point, I gave them to understand that on condition that they give me this promise, namely, that they shall not open it prior to the time of making my speech, I should have no objection to do so, having set my own seal for the seal of the office on the cover carrying the speech. It so happened, Sir, that when one of the journalists saw me by

no means a foreign journalist in the sense—he is as much Indian as anybody is—there was a kind of hashed portion, incomplete portion of the speech available at the time. Since that was a paper outside Mysore and the latest hour for despatch of the speech copy was 2 P.M. to-day and it could not reach the destination before 5 P.M., arrangement was made to seal the cover and give it to him so that it may reach the destination by 5 or 5-30 P.M., whatever it may be.

Then, as regards the other friends, I made every arrangement to see that copies are given to them as early as possible and they also promised me, I must say, that they will not disclose any information prior to the speech. But, it so happened that the Government Press was so heavily pressed that they could not give the copies till about 3-45 P.M., when it was too late probably to catch the Madras plane and the Madras friends could not send it by plane—they tried it, but they could not. As regards the local friends, they had it as early as possible, and this is a matter which I have already explained to Sri Bheemappa Naik and I wish he had mentioned to the House that I offered him this explanation. That is all that I have got to say. It was not obligatory on my part to have done it. But it seems to me that my stretching the point in favour of the Press has landed me in this kind of seeming discrimination, but I think my friends do understand that that was just a mistake because the Press could not get the copies.

*Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—This is a question of privilege. I am pressing whether the Hon'ble Minister can disclose the Budget to Press before it is brought before this House, whether with or without any assurance. Nowhere, in any responsible country have I heard that Budget can be given away to papers with assurance. and it is with the intention of seeing that the secrecy of the Budget is kept up that this system has been brought into effect. Therefore, I would request the Hon'ble Speaker to refer this question to the Privilege Committee for examining it and sending their report thereon.

Sri H. C. DASAPPA.—I readily welcome the proposal of my Hon'ble friend because that is a thing which should be very helpful if not now, at least in future.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಅಸೆಂಬ್ಲಿಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಇದು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ವಿಷಯ. ಆದಕಾರಣ ಆ ಪ್ರತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮೊದಲು ಇವರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿದ ಹೊರತು ಬೇರೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಕಂಡುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಎಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಆಚರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಅದೇರೀತಿ ತಾವೂ ಕೂಡ, ಆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನೇ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಅನುಸರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುತ್ತೀರೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

Sri H. C. DASAPPA.—All that I could say is, that so far as the Press is concerned, with this embargo I would like to treat it as a matter of privilege and have the matter examined. Let it be examined, I have no objection.

Rajamantrapravina H. B. GUNDAPPA GOWDA (Hassan District—General).—I believe the ruling is already given now.

Sri H. C. DASAPPA.—There was a motion.....

Mr. SPEAKER.—There was no motion ; it was only a suggestion.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. SPEAKER (Sri V. Venkatappa). The Bills may now be introduced by the Ministers respectively in charge of them.

Sri H. C. DASAPPA (Minister for Finance and Industries) :—Sir, on the recommendation of His Highness the Maharaja, I beg to introduce the following Bills which were published in the *Mysore Gazette* (Extraordinary) dated 16th March 1950 under Rule 36 of the Mysore Legislative Rules :—

(1) The Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill ;

(2) The Mysore Sales-Tax (Amendment) Bill ;

(3) The City of Bangalore Improvement (Amendment) Bill : and

(4) The Mysore Motor Spirit (Taxation on Sales) (Amendment) Bill.

Sri K. T. BHASHYAM (Minister for Law and Labour).—Sir, on the recommendation of His Highness the Maharaja, I beg to introduce the following

Bills which were published in the *Mysore Gazette* (Extraordinary) dated 16th March 1950 under Rule 36 of the Mysore Legislative Rules :

(1) The Mysore General Clauses (Amendment) Bill ; and

(2) The Mysore Legislative Assembly (Prevention of Disqualification for Membership) Bill.

Sri H. SIDDAIYA.—(Minister for Revenue and Excise) : Sir, on the recommendation of His Highness the Maharaja, I beg to introduce :

(1) The Mysore Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, and

(2) The Mysore Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill.

which were published in the *Mysore Gazette* (Extraordinary) dated 16th March 1950 under Rule 36 of the Mysore Legislative Rules.

Sri T. MARIAPPA (Home Minister) —Sir, on the recommendation of His Highness the Maharaja, I beg to introduce the following Bills which were published in the *Mysore Gazette* (Extraordinary) dated 16th March 1950 under Rule 36 of the Mysore Legislative Rules :

(1) The Mysore Village Panchayet (Amendment) Bill ;

(2) The Mysore Village Panchayet Second Amendment) Bill ;

and (3) The Mysore Drugs (Control) Bill.

Sir, on the recommendation of His Highness the Maharaja, I also beg to introduce :

The Mysore Maintenance of Public Order Bill.

Which was published in the *Mysore Gazette* (Extraordinary) dated 18th March 1950, under Rule 36 of the Mysore Legislative Rules.

Janab MOHAMED VALIULLA (Kolar— Muslim).—Sir, under Standing Order 30, the Hon'ble Speaker should exercise his power to suspend this Standing Order to allow the motion to be made.

Mr. SPEAKER.—As only the Bills now, it is not necessary to suspend the Standing Order.

Sri R. CHENNIGARAMIAH (Minister for Local Self-Government).—Sir, on the recommendation of His Highness the Maharaja, I beg to introduce the following Bills which were published in the *Mysore Gazette* (Extraordinary) dated 16th March 1950. under Rule 36 of the Mysore Legislative Rules :

(1) The Mysore Minor Municipalities (Amendment) Bill ;

(2) The Mysore Town Municipalities (Amendment) Bill ;

(3) The Mysore City Municipalities (Amendment) Bill ;

(4) The Mysore City Municipalities (Second Amendment) Bill ;

(5) The Bangalore Survey Bill ;

and

(6) The City of Bangalore Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill.